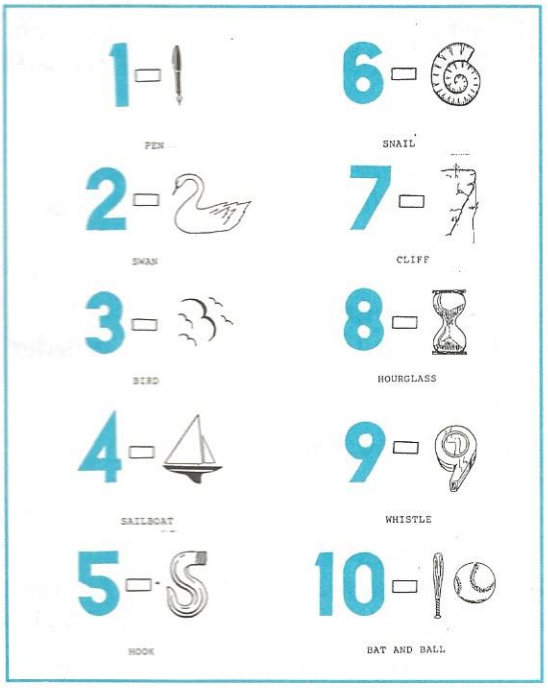
Remember, the sillier the associations, the easier it is to recall.

This simple system can be used to memorize capitals of states or countries, the solar system, languages – anything that needs to be recalled. Let's try it on the first ten U.S. Presidents.

MY KEY WORD	PRESIDENT	HOW I ASSOCIATE
1. WON	WASHINGTON	Won presidency by a *ton*.
2. PAIR	ADAMS	Pear (pair) for *Adam* & Eve.
3. TREE	JEFFERSON	Jeff *fir* son's *tree*.
4. STAR	MADISON	Is *mad* at the *sun*.
5. FOOT	MONROE	Foot used by a *man* to *row* a boat.
6. 6-PACK	ADAMS	*Adams* split a 6-pack of atoms.
7. 7UP	JACKSON	7up and Cracker *Jack*.
8. ATE	VAN BUREN	Ate lunch in my *van*.
9. 9-IRON	HARRISON	Used a 9-iron for a *hairy* shot.
10. TENT	TYLER	*Tie* the tent down.

Key words can also be memorized by associating each number with a word that looks like the number it represents. For example, as illustrated (below), 1 looks like a pen, 2 looks like a swan, 3 is a bird, 4 is a sailboat, 5 is a hook, 6 is a snail, 7 is a cliff, 8 is an hourglass, 9 is a whistle, and 10 is a bat and ball. These key words can be used for association the same way as the others above.



Scottsdale CARPET PATIO TURF FLOOR COVERING CO.
(1) WON SHEET VINYL ITALIAN TILE
SINCE 1960
Allstate (2) PAIR JIM JAKUBEK
MESSINGER MORTUARY & CHAPEL (3) TREE
Hitching Post Car Wash (4) STAR
Stanley's Plumbing Repair (5) FOOT
Aunt Mary's Restaurant (6) 6-PACK
ST. FRANCIS CEMETERY (7) 7up
JOE KEARNEY (8) ATE
PONDEROSA LUMBER CO. (9) 9-IRON
J's Hallmark Shoppe (10) TENT
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- With a little practice, it's surprising how effective a few memory strategies can be in saving time and energy.